

Minutes from East Jemez Resources Council Meeting
September 9, 2004
Valles Caldera National Preserve

1. Cultural Resources Working Group Update – Mike Bremer.
 - The last CRWG meeting was held on August 26th.
 - LANL Conveyance and Transfer work will not be significantly postponed by the current operational stand down.
 - The State Historic Preservation Office has undertake a major reorganization. Michael Elliot is current liason.
 - UNM Regents are exchanging land in Canada de Cochiti but we do not have details. There are concerns about the loss of resources.
2. Volunteer Task Force Presentation – Craig Martin.
 - Work has been initiated by LA County to put runoff control structures in Pueblo Canyon.
 - Volunteer Task Force has been monitoring 25 vegetation transects established after the CG Fire.
 - 40 to 60 % of Pueblo Canyon Watershed was mulched in combination with other treatments. In general, vegetation cover is increasing, much of the straw mulch is gone, in many cases replaced by litter from reestablished vegetation. Vegetation cover is approximately 40-45% and we are hoping to reach 60% cover in many areas.
 - Info on seed mix-related issues: Cereal barley dropped out of the community within two years. Ryegrass has been increasing. Perennial grasses are approximately 60% of all veg cover. Cheatgrass is decreasing and squirreltail is increasing. There is no apparent aspect or mulching effect on species composition.
 - Photos are available at www.volunteertaskforce.org
3. Jemez Mountains Elk Management – Steve Kohlmann
 - Primary regional elk management issues:
 - Elk distribution
 - Elk population levels
 - Conflicts with cattle
 - Habitat condition
 - The role of the VCNP
 - Economic benefits from elk
 - Aerial surveys show approximately 4,000 to 4,500 elk in Unit 6 with 2,500 to 3,500 in Unit 6B (VCNP).

- Hunting pressure has concentrated elk on VCNP.
- Habitat quality throughout the region has been declining as a result of forest encroachment, drought, and over-utilization.
- Elk Management Priorities:
 - Improve economic benefits by improving herd status and hunt quality
 - Improve ecological conditions by reducing conflicts with cattle and improving conditions for both. Must collaborate with stakeholders to find solutions.

4. Regional Fire Hazard Monitoring – Randy Balice

- Common goals are to reduce fire hazards and increase interagency collaboration.
- Randy is working in collaboration with Steve Yool at the University of Arizona on a FLAMMAP model for the entire East Jemez Region.
- Model output dependent on accurate inputs.
- Monitoring data are based on standard methods
- He has developed custom fuel models when necessary (e.g. piñon-juniper woodland).
- Site-specific three day weather forecasts are derived from LANL towers.
- The model can be used to make regional risk assessments and guide interagency mitigation actions.